

THROUGH THE LENS OF FAITH:
A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
LESSON 16 – 1 CORINTHIANS 7:12-24

QUESTIONS -> MARRIAGE
& SINGLENESS (PT 2)

MATTERS ABOUT
WHICH YOU WROTE? (7:1)

Inferring some of the possible
questions they might have asked:

1. Should single Christians remain celibate? (1-2, 7-9)
2. Should married couples continue normal sexual relations after becoming Christians? (3-6)
3. Is divorce permitted for Christians? (10-11)
4. What about when only one partner becomes a Christian? (12-16)
5. Should Christian fathers give their daughters in marriage? (25-38)
6. May a Christian widow remarry? (39-40)



GENERAL
PRINCIPLE ->

EXAMPLE #1

Circumcised / Uncircumcised

*Some Jewish Christians had tried to force circumcision on Gentile Christians
-Acts 15:1-5

*Under Christ, physical circumcision makes no difference.

-Rom 2:25, 29; Gal 5:2-6

*Be content and obey God!
-Jn 14:15-24; 1Jn 2:3-6;
Rom 6:16

EXAMPLE #2

Bondservant / Free

*NOT an endorsement of slavery, but stressing that Christians should live for the Lord without anxiety in their present situation

*The irony is that the slave will be free from sin, and the free will be a bondservant of Christ
-Jn 8:31-38; Rom 6:15-23;
8:1-2; Gal 5:1; 1Pe 2:16

PAUL HAS JUST ADDRESSED DIVORCE / SEPARATION
IN MARRIAGES BETWEEN CHRISTIANS (10-11) ●----->

¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, **he should not divorce her.**

I, NOT THE LORD -> i.e. this is concerning a scenario that Jesus did not directly address in His earthly ministry -In contrast to "not I, but the Lord" in 7:10 *Does NOT mean this teaching is not inspired or binding (14:37)

¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, **she should not divorce him.** <- 7:10-11; GEN 2:18-25; MT 19:3-9

¹⁴ **For** the unbelieving husband is **made holy** because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is **made holy** because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, **they are holy.**

¹⁵ **But** if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases **the brother or sister is not enslaved.** God has **called you to peace.**

¹⁶ **For** how do you know, wife, whether you will **save your husband**? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will **save your wife**?

¹⁷ Only **let each person** lead the life that the Lord has **assigned to him**, and to which **God has called him.** This is my **rule** in all the churches.

¹⁸ Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him **not seek** to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him **not seek** circumcision.

¹⁹ For **neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision**, but **keeping the commandments of God.** <- GAL 5:2-6 "NEITHER CIRCUMCISION NOR UNCIRCUMCISION COUNTS FOR ANYTHING, BUT ONLY FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE."

²⁰ Each one should **remain in the condition in which he was called.** <- REPEATING THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE

²¹ Were you a bondservant when called? **Do not be concerned about it.** (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)

²² For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a **freedman of the Lord.** Likewise he who was free when called is a **bondservant of Christ.**

²³ You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.

²⁴ So, brothers, **in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.** <- REPEATING THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE

TO THE REST... (7:12)

"has a [wife/husband] who is an unbeliever"

*This is concerning the situation where only one partner in a marriage converts to Christianity

-This is NOT dealing with a believer choosing to marry an unbeliever.

Paul addresses this scenario in 2Co 6:14-7:1

*Paul preached in Corinth for 18+ months (Acts 18:11, 18), and it is very likely there were many marriages where only one spouse responded to the Gospel.

*Paul's response here is that they should keep the marriage together!

*However, the believer cannot FORCE the unbeliever to stay...why?

-The believer is not "enslaved" (16)

-The believer has been called to "peace" (16)

*If the unbelieving spouse leaves, does the believing partner have the right to remarry?

-Mt 19:3-9

MADE HOLY / SAVE (7:14, 16)

*The **believing spouse** can keep the **influence of Christ** within the family.

*This ultimately could lead to the **conversion** (salvation) of the **unbelieving spouse** and/or their **children.**

*Does NOT mean that the **unbelieving partner** is sanctified or made pure simply by the presence of the believing spouse.

LET EACH PERSON... (7:17)

*Christian should **be content** with wherever they find themselves in life (Phil 4:10-13)

*In any situation, we should **obey and bring glory to God** (10:31)

Not Divorce Him...

1 Corinthians 7:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

Genesis 2:18–25 (ESV)

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Matthew 19:3–9 (ESV)

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" ⁴ He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." ⁷ They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" ⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

To the rest...

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 (ESV)

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What

accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?

¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,

¹⁸ and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

¹ Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

Acts 18:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Acts 18:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.

Matthew 19:3–9 (ESV)

³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “**Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,** ⁵ **and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?** ⁶ **So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.**” ⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸ He said to them, “**Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**” ⁹ **And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”**

let each person...

Philippians 4:10–13 (ESV)

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content.

¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every

circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Example #1

Acts 15:1–5 (ESV)

¹ But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. ³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

Romans 2:25 (ESV)

²⁵ For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision.

Romans 2:29 (ESV)

²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Galatians 5:2–6 (ESV)

² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

John 14:15–24 (ESV)

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

1 John 2:3–6 (ESV)

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Romans 6:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Example #2

John 8:31–38 (ESV)

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

Romans 6:15–23 (ESV)

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves

of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:1–2 (ESV)

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

1 Peter 2:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.